(c) No, Sir.

(d) The need for contacting other country does not arise as the existing contract with Russia is still valid.

Reforms in Defence Forces

†135. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about the unnecessary delay in most urgent reforms in the defence forces *viz.* change in size of all the three wings of defence forces, better training and equipment, adequate pay scales and facilities to the officers and other defence personnel etc.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when Government will achieve the objective of organizational reforms and modernization etc. in the structure of defence forces in order to meet long term defence challenges?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) There is no unnecessary delay in reforms relating to defence forces. Organizational reforms and modernization of defence forces are continuing processes depending upon the specific requirements and operational necessity.

Resignations by Pilots of Air Force

136. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of pilots of Air Force have resigned or left the service recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that they do not leave the service?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) There has been no instance of large number of pilots of the Indian Air Force (IAF) leaving the service.

The pilots of the IAF are granted premature retirement/resignation on case to case basis in accordance with extant Government policy.

(c) The improvement in the job profile of the pilots is a continuous process keeping in view the job specific requirements and operational necessity.

Air journeys by former PMs and Ministers in IAF planes

†137. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ex-Prime Ministers and other ex-Union Ministers have travelled by the planes of Indian Air Force between the period of 1st January, 2000 to 30th June, 2004;

(b) if so, the year-wise details of the air-travel trips made by them separately;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(c) whether some of these air-trips were made unofficially;

(d) if so, the year-wise amount outstanding against them for these unofficial air-trips; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to recover the fare of their unofficial air-trips?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of airlift services provided by Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft to Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and various Central Ministers are given in Statement I and II. *(See* below*)*

(c) to (e) As per the existing orders only the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister are entitled to use the IAF aircraft for non-official purposes. The charges which were due from the former Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister for the non-official journeys during the above period have been collected in full and there is no arrear pending against them.

Statement I

Details of airlift services provided to the dignitaries by IAF aircraft

Details of airlift services provided in the IAF aircraft to the former Prime Minister (PM), Deputy Prime Minister, Raksha Mantri (RM) & Home Minister (HM) are as under:—

Year	Dignitary	No. of Official Tours
2000	PM	25
	RM	46
	HM	12
2001	PM	37
	RM	37
	HM	7
2002	PM	20
	Deputy PM	16
	RM	59
	HM	—
2003	PM	36
	Deputy PM	63
	RM	73
	HM	—
2004	PM	11
(Till 30th June 2004)	Deputy PM	13
	RM	12
	HM	—

Note: As per Office Memorandum dated 6th January 1981, the PM, Deputy PM, Raksha Mantri and Home Minister are entitled to use IAF aircraft for official/Defence purposes, free of charge.

Statement-II

Details of airlift services provided to the former Cabinet Ministers by IAF aircraft

Details of airlift services provided in the IAF aircraft to the former Cabinet Ministers are as under:—

JANUARY 2000-MARCH 2001:

Sl. No.	Minister	Number of flights
1.	External Affairs	6
2.	Agriculture	5
3.	Water Resources	1
4.	Railways	1
5.	Tribal Affairs	1
6.	Commerce	1
7.	Finance	1

APRIL 2001-MARCH 2002:

Sl. No.	Minister	Number of flights
1.	Health & Family Welfare	3
2.	Agriculture	1
3.	External Affairs	1

APRIL 2002-MARCH 2003:

Sl. No.	Minister	Number of flights
1.	External Affairs	8
2.	Finance	5
3.	Shipping	1
4.	Railways©	1

APRIL 2003-JUNE 2004:

Sl. No.	Minister	Number of flights
1.	Finance	5
2.	External Affairs	3
3.	Railway	1